

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/052,397
Our Ref: Q68214

REMARKS

By way of this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7, and added new claims 8 and 9. For the following reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants also submit herewith corrected drawings in which Figures 6-9 have been labeled "PRIOR ART".

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-7 have been objected to as containing an informality. It is submitted that the above amendments to the claims overcome this rejection.

Claim 1 has been rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art of Fig. 9. Claims 2-7 have been rejected under § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. Patent No. 6,083,044). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Rejection of Claim 1 based on Admitted Prior Art

Beginning first with the rejection based on Fig. 9 of the subject application, unfortunately, the Examiner merely states that Fig. 9 discloses the claimed method, reciting each of the method steps, without providing an explanation of the rejection. It would appear that the Examiner has interpreted the attachment leg portions 125 of Fig. 9 as corresponding to both the claimed positioning projection and the attachment arm. In view of the foregoing, Applicants have amended claim 1 in two respects. First, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the attachment arm is independent of the positioning projection. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the positioning step, the inserting step and the fixing step are conducted

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in the stated order. Since it would appear that the Examiner is interpreting the attachment leg portions 125 of the Fig. 9 device as corresponding to the positioning projection and the attachment arm, Applicants submit that the above amendment to claim 1 patentably distinguishes it over the admitted prior art.

Rejection of Claims 2-7 based on Wang

Turning to the rejection of claims 2-7, it is clear from the Examiner's rejection that he is interpreting the board locking members 4' (*See* Figs. 6 and 7) of Wang as corresponding to both the positioning projection and the attachment arm. *See* paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. Therefore, as with claim 1, claims 2 and 5 have been amended to clarify that the attachment arm is independent of the positioning projection. Since the Examiner has relied on the locking member 4' as corresponding to both the positioning projection and the attachment arm, claims 2 and 5 patentably distinguish over this reference.

The dependent claims are patentable based on their dependency from claim 1. In addition, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Wang does not teach or suggest the specific features recited in some of the dependent claims, such as claims 4 and 7. These claims recite that the projecting length of the positioning projection from the attachment surface is greater than the projection length of the attachment arm from the attachment surface. The Examiner contends that Wang discloses this feature noting that height can be relative during insertion. However, Applicants disagree with this position. Claims 4 and 7 specifically state that the projecting length of the positioning projection and that attachment arm is from the attachment surface 11.

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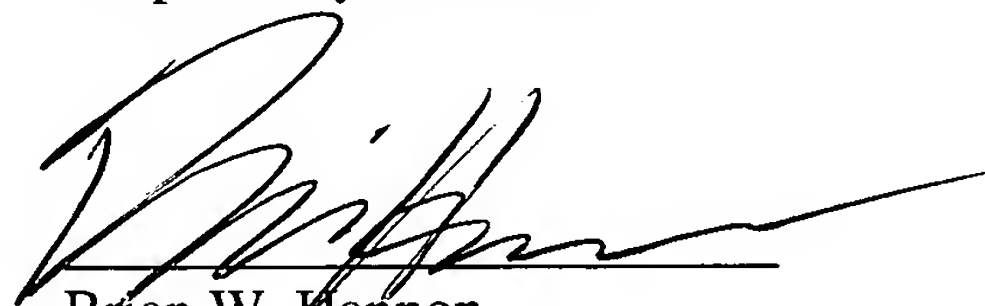
Since the length is relative to the surface, it can not vary during insertion as the Examiner seems to contend. Thus, the Examiner's rejection of claims 4 and 6 is improper.

In addition to the above, Applicants have added new claims 8 and 9 which recite that the positioning projection protrudes further from the attachment surface than the attachment arm. It is clear that the cited art does not teach or suggest this feature either.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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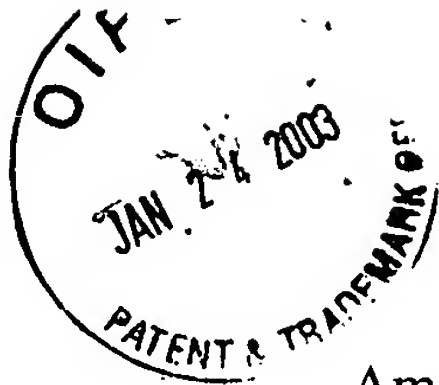
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: January 24, 2003



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of attaching a board connector, comprising the steps of:
positioning the board connector relatively with respect to the circuit board by inserting a tip end portion of a positioning projection protruding in an attachment direction from an attachment surface of the board connector opposing to a circuit board into a corresponding positioning hole provided at the circuit board;

inserting tip end portions of terminals protruding in the attachment direction from the attachment surface into through holes of the circuit board; and

fixing the board connector to the circuit board by engaging an attachment arm,
independent of said positioning projection provided at a side surface of the board connector and
extending in the attachment direction with an attachment portion provided at the circuit board,
said positioning, inserting and fixing steps occurring in the stated order.

2. (Amended) An attachment structure of a board connector, the board connector including terminals protruding in an attachment direction from an attachment surface thereof opposing to a circuit board, said attachment structure comprising:

a positioning projection protruding in an attachment direction from the attachment surface, said positioning projection having a projecting ~~height higher~~ length greater than
projection lengths ~~heights~~ of said terminals from the attachment surface, said positioning

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projection being inserted into a positioning hole provided at the circuit board prior to insertion of the terminals into through holes; and

an attachment arm, independent of said positioning projection, provided at a side surface of the board connector and protruding in the attachment direction, said attachment arm being engaged with an attachment portion provided at the circuit board, whereby the board connector is fixed to the circuit board.

4. (Amended) An attachment structure of the board connector according to claim 2, wherein the projecting ~~height-length~~ of said positioning projection from the attachment surface is ~~higher-greater~~ than a projection ~~height-length~~ of said attachment arm from the attachment surface.

5. (Amended) A board connector comprising:
terminals protruding in an attachment direction from an attachment surface;
a positioning projection protruding in the attachment direction from the attachment surface; and

an attachment arm, independent of said positioning projection, provided at a side surface of the board connector and extending in the attachment direction, said attachment arm having an engagement projection at a tip end thereof;

wherein a projecting ~~height-length~~ of said positioning projection from the attachment surface is ~~provided higher-greater~~ than projection ~~heights-lengths~~ of said terminals from the attachment surface.

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7. (Amended) A board connector according to claim 5, wherein the projecting ~~height-length~~ of said positioning projection from the attachment surface is ~~higher-greater~~ than a projection ~~height-length~~ of said attachment arm from the attachment surface.

Claims 8 and 9 are added as new claims.